



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/882,324	06/15/2001	Masahito Tomizawa	10746/27	8427
26646	7590	08/25/2005	EXAMINER	
KENYON & KENYON ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004			PEZZLO, JOHN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2662	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/882,324

Applicant(s)

TOMIZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

John Pezzlo

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-5 and 10-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 6-8 and 15-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>27 December 2001</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

I. Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Utsumi (US 4,644,536).

1. Regarding claims 1 and 10 – Utsumi discloses a control pulses generating circuit, (refer to callouts 3, 4, 5, 2, and 1 in Figure 2, and callouts 13, 14, and 15 in Figure 4, and callouts 28 and 29 in Figure 6) which generates control pulses (f Hz clock and the inverse f Hz clock pulses) each of which corresponds to one of said channels, wherein phases of said control pulses are different for each channel, refer to Figure 4 callout 16 and figure 6 callout 31 and column 3 lines 25 to 55, Utsumi discloses the multiplexer which two phases of a clock signal, f Hz, one phase is the inverse of the other phase, refer to the inverter shown in the clock line.

Utsumi discloses channel-frame generating circuits, (refer to callout 4 in Figure 2) connected to said control pulses generating circuit, each of which receives said low-speed frame signal and outputs said low-speed frame signal in synchronization with said control pulse, in the background of the invention, Utsumi discloses a 1/9 Frequency Divider, callout 4 in Figure 2,

Art Unit: 2662

which generates a channel-frame generating circuit which generates a low-speed frame signal, refer to Figure 1, F, used in A, B, and C signals and column 1 lines 18 to 65.

Utsumi discloses a multiplexing circuit, connected to said channel-frame generating circuits, which multiplexes said low-speed frame signals into said high-speed serial signal and outputs said high-speed serial signal, refer to callout 8 in Figure 8 and column 1 lines 18 to 65.

2. Regarding claims 4 and 13 – Utsumi discloses synchronization pattern inserting circuits each of which inserts a frame synchronization pattern into said low-speed frame signal, refer to Figures 1 and 2 and column 1 lines 5 to 68 and column 2 lines 1 to 8.

3. Regarding claims 5 and 14 – Utsumi discloses wherein time duration on which said control pulses are generated for every channel is smaller than time duration of channel-frame format, refer to Figure 1 and column 1 lines 5 to 40.

4. Regarding claim 11 – Utsumi discloses demultiplexing said high-speed serial signal into said low-speed frame signals, refer to Figure 5 and column 3 lines 55 to 68 and column 4 lines 1 to 5.

Utsumi discloses generating, for each of said low-speed frame signals, a frame pulse corresponding to said low-speed frame signal, refer to Figure 5 and column 3 lines 55 to 68 and column 4 lines 1 to 5.

Utsumi discloses switching the demultiplexer (callout 22 in Figure 5) each of said low-speed frame signals to an appropriate port of said channel according to signals generated from

Art Unit: 2662

said frame pulses, the port is inherent, since the demultiplexer outputs two low-speed signals, callouts 26 and 27 in Figure 5, which are assumed to be routed to the destinations through an appropriate port.

5. Regarding claim 12 - Utsumi discloses a control pulses generating circuit, (refer to callouts 3, 4, 5, 2, and 1 in Figure 2, and callouts 13, 14, and 15 in Figure 4, and callouts 28 and 29 in Figure 6) which generates control pulses (f Hz clock and the inverse f Hz clock pulses) each of which corresponds to one of said channels, wherein phases of said control pulses are different for each channel, refer to Figure 4 callout 16 and figure 6 callout 31 and column 3 lines 25 to 55, Utsumi discloses the multiplexer which two phases of a clock signal, f Hz, one phase is the inverse of the other phase, refer to the inverter shown in the clock line.

Utsumi discloses channel-frame generating circuits, (refer to callout 4 in Figure 2) connected to said control pulses generating circuit, each of which receives said low-speed frame signal and outputs said low-speed frame signal in synchronization with said control pulse, in the background of the invention, Utsumi discloses a $1/9$ Frequency Divider, callout 4 in Figure 2, which generates a channel-frame generating circuit which generates a low-speed frame signal, refer to Figure 1, F, used in A, B, and C signals and column 1 lines 18 to 65.

Utsumi discloses a multiplexing circuit, connected to said channel-frame generating circuits, which multiplexes said low-speed frame signals into said high-speed serial signal and outputs said high-speed serial signal, refer to callout 8 in Figure 8 and column 1 lines 18 to 65.

Utsumi discloses demultiplexing said high-speed serial signal into said low-speed frame signals, refer to Figure 5 and column 3 lines 55 to 68 and column 4 lines 1 to 5.

Utsumi discloses generating, for each of said low-speed frame signals, a frame pulse corresponding to said low-speed frame signal, refer to Figure 5 and column 3 lines 55 to 68 and column 4 lines 1 to 5.

Utsumi discloses switching the demultiplexer (callout 22 in Figure 5) each of said low-speed frame signals to an appropriate port of said channel according to signals generated from said frame pulses, the port is inherent, since the demultiplexer outputs two low-speed signals, callouts 26 and 27 in Figure 5, which are assumed to be routed to the destinations through an appropriate port.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

II. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsumi (same as above) in view of Fujimura et al. (US 4,744,082).

1. Regarding claim 2 – Utsumi discloses a demultiplexer which demultiplexes said serial signal into said low-speed frame high-speed signals, refer to Figure 5 and column 3 lines 55 to 68 and column 4 lines 1 to 5.

Utsumi discloses channel-frame synchronization circuits, the inverse converter, the frame synchronizer, and the frequency divider, shown in Figure 5, connected to said demultiplexer, each of which receives said low-speed frame signal, the $2f$ Hz clock, generates a frame pulse corresponding to said low-speed frame signal, and outputs said low-speed frame signal, refer to Figure 5 and column 3 lines 55 to 68 and column 4 lines 1 to 5.

Utsumi discloses a switching circuit, the demultiplexer (callout 22 in Figure 5) connected to said channel-frame synchronization circuits, which receives said low-speed frame signals and sends each of said low-speed frame signals to an appropriate port of said channel, the port is inherent, since the demultiplexer outputs two low-speed signals, callouts 26 and 27 in Figure 5, which are assumed to be routed to the destinations through an appropriate port.

Utsumi does not expressly disclose a switch controller circuit, which controls said switching circuit according to said frame pulses output from said channel-frame synchronization circuits.

Fujimura discloses a switch controller circuit which controls said switching circuit according to said frame pulses output from said channel-frame synchronization circuits, refer to Figure 5, callout 220, and Figure 6, and column 6 lines 38 to 68 and columns 7 and 8.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to an ordinary person of skill in the art to combine Fujimura with Utsumi to provide a switch controller circuit which controls said switching circuit according to said frame pulses output from said channel-frame synchronization circuits. The suggestion for doing so can be found in Utsumi, (background of the invention) which states that the overall circuit arrangement becomes complicated. Therefore, having a switching controller will help to manage the overall operation of the switching circuits.

Art Unit: 2662

The motivation and benefit for doing so would be more efficient operation, which is easy to monitor and control.

2. Regarding claim 3 – Utsumi discloses a control pulses generating circuit, (refer to callouts 3, 4, 5, 2, and 1 in Figure 2, and callouts 13, 14, and 15 in Figure 4, and callouts 28 and 29 in Figure 6) which generates control pulses (f Hz clock and the inverse f Hz clock pulses) each of which corresponds to one of said send channels, wherein phases of said control pulses are different for each send channel, refer to Figure 4 callout 16 and figure 6 callout 31 and column 3 lines 25 to 55, Utsumi discloses the multiplexer which two phases of a clock signal, f Hz, one phase is the inverse of the other phase, refer to the inverter shown in the clock line.

Utsumi discloses channel-frame generating circuits, (refer to callout 4 in Figure 2) connected to said control pulses generating circuit, each of which receives said send low-speed frame signal, and outputs said send low-speed frame signal in synchronization with said control pulse, in the background of the invention, Utsumi discloses a $1/9$ Frequency Divider, callout 4 in Figure 2, which generates a channel-frame generating circuit which generates a low-speed frame signal, refer to Figure 1, F, used in A, B, and C signals and column 1 lines 18 to 65.

Utsumi discloses a multiplexing circuit, connected to said channel-frame generating circuits, which multiplexes said send low-speed frame signals into said send high-speed serial signal and outputs said send high-speed serial signal, refer to callout 8 in Figure 8 and column 1 lines 18 to 65.

Utsumi discloses a demultiplexer which demultiplexes said receive high-speed serial signal into said receive low-speed frame signals, refer to Figure 5 and column 3 lines 55 to 68 and column 4 lines 1 to 5.

Utsumi discloses channel-frame synchronization circuits, the inverse converter, the frame synchronizer, and the frequency divider, shown in Figure 5, connected to said demultiplexer, each of which receives said receive low-speed frame signal, the $2f$ Hz clock, generates a frame pulse corresponding to said receive low-speed frame signal, and outputs said receive low-speed frame signal, refer to Figure 5 and column 3 lines 55 to 68 and column 4 lines 1 to 5.

Utsumi discloses a switching circuit, (callout 22 in Figure 5) connected to said channel-frame synchronization circuits, which receives said receive low-speed frame signals and sends each of said receive low-speed frame signals to an appropriate port of said receive channel, the port is inherent, since the demultiplexer outputs two low-speed signals, callouts 26 and 27 in Figure 5, which are assumed to be routed to the destinations through an appropriate port.

Utsumi does not expressly disclose a switch controller circuit, which controls said switching circuit according to said frame pulses output from said channel-frame synchronization circuits.

Fujimura discloses a switch controller circuit which controls said switching circuit according to said frame pulses output from said channel-frame synchronization circuits, refer to Figure 5, callout 220, and Figure 6, and column 6 lines 38 to 68 and columns 7 and 8.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to an ordinary person of skill in the art to combine Fujimura with Utsumi to provide a switch controller circuit which controls said switching circuit according to said frame pulses output from said channel-frame

Art Unit: 2662

synchronization circuits. The suggestion for doing so can be found in Utsumi, (background of the invention) which states that the overall circuit arrangement becomes complicated. Therefore, having a switching controller will help to manage the overall operation of the switching circuits. The motivation and benefit for doing so would be more efficient operation, which is easy to monitor and control.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 18 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 6, 7, 8, 15, 16, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Enam et al. (US 2002/0124030 A1) discloses an integration and hold phase detection.

Art Unit: 2662

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Pezzlo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3090. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou, can be reached on (571) 272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C.

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

For informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

Jefferson Building


2A15

500 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA, 22313.

John Pezzlo

16 August 2005


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER